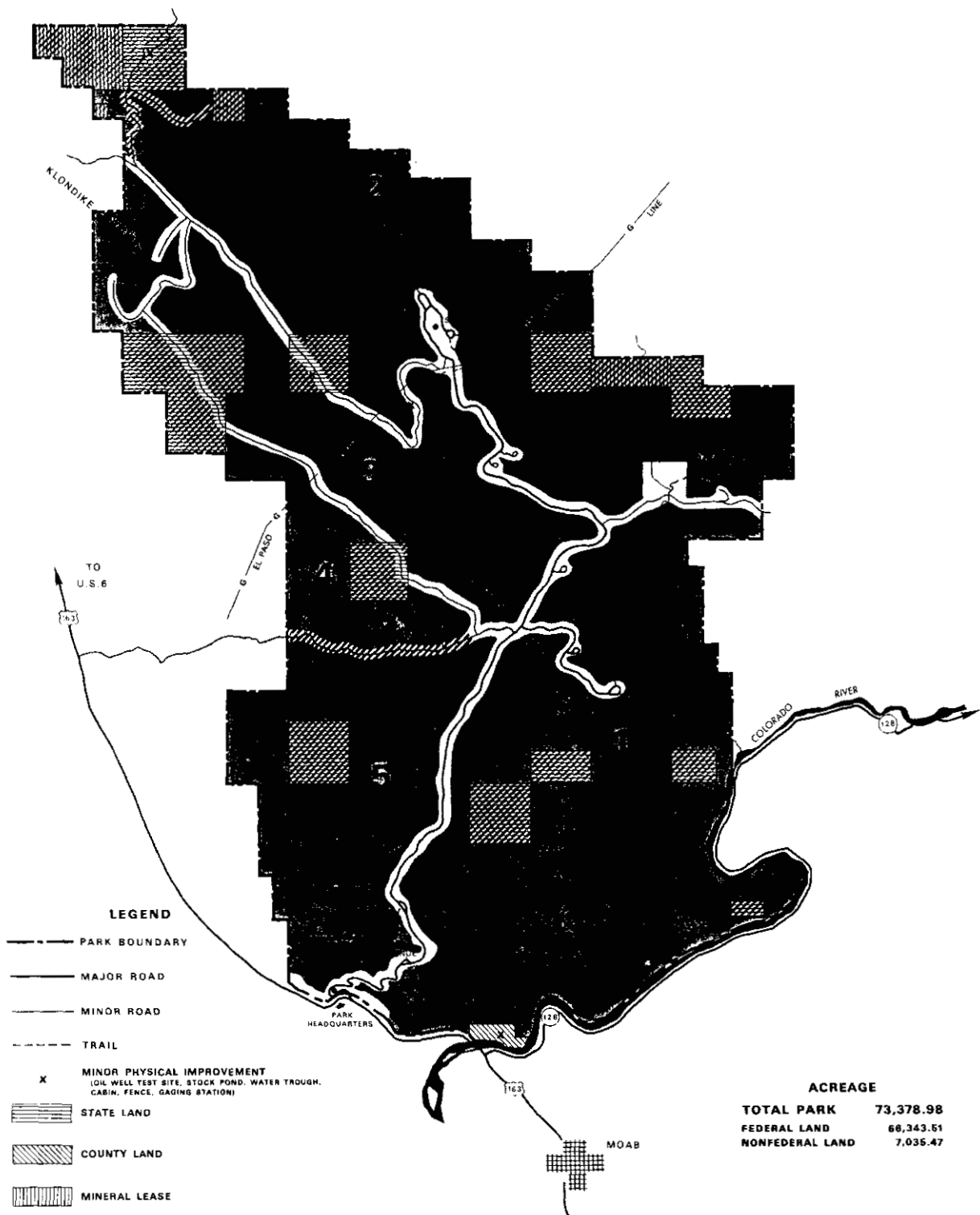


ARCHES NATIONAL PARK
UTAH

THE PRESIDENT FORMALLY TRANSMITTED A WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION FOR ARCHES NATIONAL PARK IN UTAH TO CONGRESS ON MAY 23, 1977, IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS ENVIRONMENTAL MESSAGE. THAT RECOMMENDATION SUGGESTED 54,450 ACRES FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION AND 9,050 ACRES AS POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS. THE PROPOSAL HAS NOW BEEN REVISED. MANY OF THE LANDS PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED AS POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS WERE SUBJECT TO MINERAL LEASES WHICH HAVE NOW EXPIRED. RECLASSIFICATION OF THESE POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED THE ACREAGE FOR IMMEDIATE WILDERNESS DESIGNATION. THE REVISED WILDERNESS PLAN, DEPICTED ON THE MAP BEARING THE NUMBER 138,20,014A AND DATED JANUARY 1978, PROPOSES 61,547 ACRES OF WILDERNESS AND 8,461 ACRES AS POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITIONS.



ACREAGE

TOTAL PARK	73,378.98
FEDERAL LAND	68,343.51
NONFEDERAL LAND	7,035.47

UNIT	WILDERNESS	POTENTIAL WILDERNESS ADDITION
1 WINDOWS	20,560	1,280
2 DEVIL'S GARDEN	18,089	3,726
3 SALT VALLEY	8,790	858
4 HERDINA PARK	4,876	1,899
5 COURTHOUSE TOWERS	9,252	698
TOTAL	61,567	8,461

WILDERNESS PLAN
ARCHES NATIONAL PARK
UTAH



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

AUG 7 - 1974

Dear Mr. President:

It is with pleasure that I recommend the establishment of areas totaling approximately 1,740 acres in Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The recommendation stems from this Department's responsibility under the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890) to recommend to the President areas within its jurisdiction suitable for designation as wilderness.

Nearly all of Assateague Island, located off the Delmarva Peninsula in Maryland and Virginia, is under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. The island as a whole consists primarily of dunes and marsh lands, with loblolly pine growing on high ground. Managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, the 9,439-acre Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge was established on the southern end of the island and on adjacent lands in 1943, under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Originally intended to provide migration and wintering habitat for the greater snow goose, the refuge now serves a variety of wildlife. Among these are several rare or endangered bird species--the peregrine falcon, Ipswich sparrow, osprey, and eastern pigeon hawk--and such mammals as the endangered Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel, whitetail deer, red fox, muskrat, raccoon, sika deer, and the Chincoteague pony. The 8,902-acre Assateague Island National Seashore, managed by the National Park Service, was established by Act of Congress in 1965. A 1,500-acre portion of the refuge in Virginia is also a part of the national seashore.

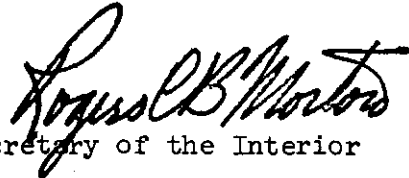
We recommend that 1,300 acres in the refuge--882 acres in Virginia and 418 acres in Maryland--along with 440 acres in the national seashore, all in Maryland, be designated wilderness. In addition, 4,760 acres in the seashore, mostly located in Maryland, are recommend as potential wilderness, to become part of the wilderness when nonconforming uses and structures are eliminated. Wilderness designation would require some adjustment in public use within the area. Motorized equipment would be prohibited from the seashore portion (none is permitted in the refuge portion), and a walk-in camp on the north end of the refuge would be relocated. Public hunting could be continued much as it is presently conducted except that structures (i.e., blinds for waterfowl hunting) would not be permitted. Utilization of the shell fish resources would not be effected, nor would fishing or the use of navigable waters. The

Act establishing the national seashore directed the construction of a road to connect the two bridges which currently provide access to the island. Such a road would virtually preclude wilderness designation on the island; however, the necessity or desirability of such a road is under question at the present time, and it is expected that its authorization will be deleted from the legislation establishing the Seashore. The submission of this proposal is in anticipation of such deletion.

In accordance with the requirements of the Wilderness Act, a public hearing on the recommendation was held at the Chincoteague Refuge Auditorium on April 17, 1974, and continued at the Assateague Island National Seashore Headquarters on April 18, 1974. Analyses of the hearing records and written expressions received, together with the letters received from other Federal agencies, are contained in the enclosed synopsis. Complete records have been compiled and are available for inspection by the public.

Enclosed is a draft bill which, if enacted, would incorporate the recommended areas of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague Island National Seashore into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

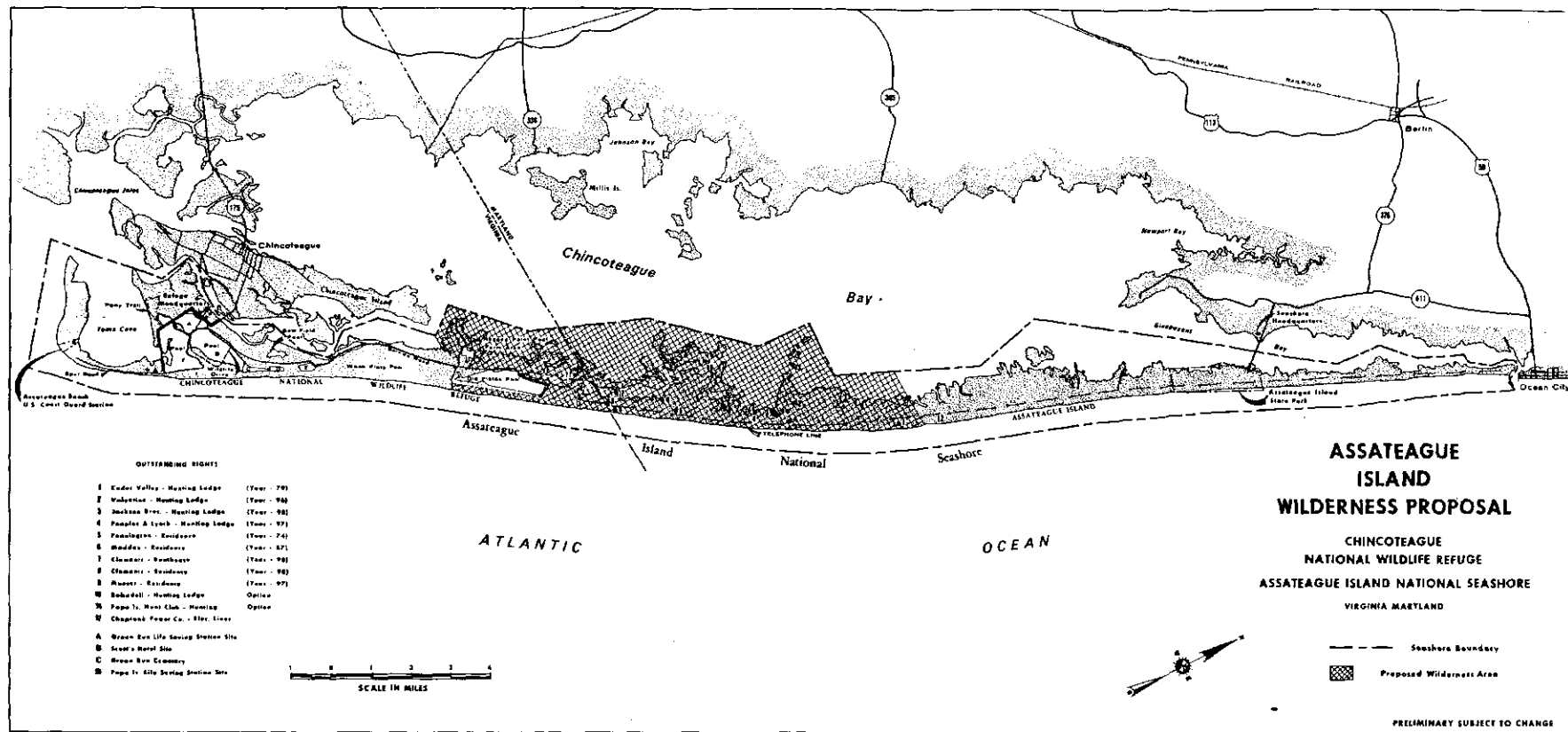
Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rogers C. B. Morton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rogers" being the most prominent.

Secretary of the Interior

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Enclosure



COMPILED IN THE DIVISION
OF ENGINEERING U.S.F. & W.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

JANUARY 1974